



THE TOGGLE IRON

Summerfest 2003 is a Great Success!

Over 30,000 people jammed the streets of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park over July 4th weekend taking in the sights and sounds of Summerfest, an annual festival held in the park and on the adjacent waterfront. Despite the humidity, and temperatures well into the 90s, throngs of people crowded the historic streets of downtown New Bedford perusing over 80 craft booths and listening to nationally renowned folk musicians.

“Summerfest is a great event - the city really shines during this weekend and the music, the food and the people from all over help to set a festive tone that stays with us for the rest of the summer”

Down on the waterfront, whaleboat races, a 150 year old tradition, took center stage. This year, the competition was made a little more exciting with the addition of both a men's and women's racing team representing the Straits of Mare Island Rowing Association from Valejo, CA. In an interesting twist, the men's team from California met the park sponsored team, the Park Sharks, in the finals.

“Summerfest is a great event—the city really shines during this weekend and the music, the food and people from all over help to set a festive tone that stays with us for the rest of the summer,” says Cliff Roderiques, park volunteer.

Check out the Park Shark racing photos on page 2.

From the Superintendent

Like all of New England, New Bedford has distinct and changing seasons. My personal favorite is early summer—when a cool evening fog rolls in, blanketing wet cobblestone streets and fishing vessels tied side-by-side along the waterfront. It's then I feel I have the city to myself and that the ghosts of a whaling era past are close at hand. But it's the long bright mid-summer days that we celebrate in this edition of *The Toggle-Iron*. Events packed with people and activities highlighting a vibrant contemporary seaport. The crowds, the music, the food, and the visitors from all over who make our city a stop on their vacation—the season seems to fly by. We have tried to capture some of it for you. I hope you enjoy it.

John Piltzecker



Park Ranger Alexandria Allen gives directions to visitors during Summerfest 2003. Over 30,000 people participated in Summerfest weekend activities.

Azores Exhibit Opens

On June 5th *At the Crossroads: Traditions in Azorean Culture and Craft* exhibition opened at the non-profit ArtWorks! gallery, located at 384 Acushnet Avenue in the national historical park. The exhibition was sponsored by New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park in collaboration with ArtWorks!, the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the



University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. *At the Crossroads* celebrates the rich traditions and the strong cultural and historical bond between New Bedford, Massachusetts and the nine island Atlantic archipelago of the Azores, which lie about 800 miles off the coast of Portugal.

At the Crossroads showcases traditional handcrafts and the artisans that make them, incorporating photography and the artisans' own words to bring the craft objects to life, telling the story of what it means to be a

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Summerfest '03

Right: In a showdown where West met East, the "Park Sharks" and the "Left Coast Boys" are neck and neck in the 2003 Independence Day Whaleboat Races.

Far Right: After the fierce competition, in which the "Left Coast Boys" edged the Park Sharks, it was all smiles for members of both teams as they posed for a group picture. After the race, most participants sat down to a well-earned plate of New Bedford scallops to replenish their tired bodies. In the end, everyone goes home a winner!



The production of The Toggle Iron was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Kodak, Proud Partner of America's National Parks.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling history. The park encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District and addresses the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Azores Exhibit

Continued from page 1

traditional artisan in a modern, post-industrial world. The exhibition includes examples of Azorean ceramics, lace, weaving and basketry, as well as art forms that are less familiar to American audiences: figurines, maize mats, corn husk dolls, and fish scale art.

In addition to the exhibition, the project included oral history interviews and a video documentary by talented local photographer and videographer John Robson called *The Patrimony of the Whaler*. The video can be viewed on a continuous loop at ArtWorks! *At the Crossroads* and *The Patrimony of the Whaler* video were funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense.

The ArtWorks! gallery is open free to the public Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hours are subject to change. ArtWorks! is universally accessible. For more information on the exhibition, contact ArtWorks! directly at 508-984-1588.



Above: View of the exhibition

Below and Cover: Ceramic figurines called Precipios



Temple Toggle-Iron: The most successful harpoon ever made. Invented by Lewis Temple, an African American whalecraft-maker of New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1848, and at first called "porpoise iron" and "Temple's gig." It became the universal whale iron, and has never been improved upon. (From Clifford W. Ashley's, *The Yankee Whaler*)

Deputy Superintendent Ross Travels to Azores

As a follow up to the November 2002 research trip and resulting exhibition *At the Crossroads: Traditions in Azorean Culture & Craft*, Deputy Superintendent Tom Ross was invited, along with colleagues from a number of other sister agencies such as the US Forest Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture and Geological Survey, to travel to Angra do Heroismo, Terceira to participate in the Azores Cooperative Initiatives Program (ACIP) technical working group meetings May 17-23.

The ACIP was established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense to help fulfill the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation and Defense between Autonomous Region of the Azores, Portugal and the U.S. The agreement allows the U.S. military to access the air base at Lajes on the Island of Terceira, and calls for the U.S. to implement cooperative activities in agriculture, environment, education and cultural exchange.

The purpose of the meetings was to work with Azorean counterparts to jointly identify and prioritize project ideas in our respective fields. Ross, working with staff from the Office of Culture, presented several project ideas, including a proposal to travel the exhibition *At the Crossroads* to the Azores;

undertake a second research trip on whaling and culture in the Azorean Islands not previously studied; and a cultural exchange proposal to bring Azorean whaling scholars to New Bedford. All of the projects that the working group developed will be presented to the Regional Government of the Azores.



ACIP group touring a cheese production factory in Angra do Heroismo, Terceira. (From left to right) Jose Amaral, Regional Government of the Azores; Victor Vockerodt, US Embassy; Ryan Moore, USDA; William Clapham, USDA; Greg Alward, USDA; Tom Ross, NPS; Jose Viera; University of Azores.

NPS and Partners Meet in Alaska to Discuss Future Collaborations

A delegation including representatives from the park and the New Bedford Whaling Museum traveled to Anchorage and Barrow, Alaska in May to foster ongoing programs and cultural exchange between the Whaling Museum and the National Park Service, the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow. The trip presented opportunities for new partners to explore possible collaboration and for established partners to reconnect and make plans for future projects.



(Pictured outside of Anchorage, AK) L to R: Jennifer Gonsalves and John Piltzecker with Lee Heald, Director of Programs, and Anne Brengle, Executive Director of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Under the umbrella of ECHO, the Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Act, which was established by Congress in 2001 as part of the No Child Left Behind Education Act, the delegation met with Alaska colleagues to develop programs that would transcend the geographic distance between institutions as well as create awareness for the real links between these geographically distant places.

The relationship between the park and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, established in the park's enabling legislation in 1996, was strengthened by having staff from both organizations meet, some for the first time, to discuss ways to further explore the common heritage between New Bedford and the people of the North Slope of Alaska. Jennifer Gonsalves, Chief of Visitor services at the park, remarked on the success of the trip, "The legislative connection that we



The Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska

have with the Iñupiat Heritage Center became real and human to me as soon as I saw the faces of the people of Barrow and heard them talk about their whaling traditions and real connection with men who traveled to the North Slope of Alaska on New Bedford whaleships. I knew that we were taking something that was steeped in history and making it a contemporary relationship that would have meaning and relevance for the people of both communities."

Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Al Figueiredo

Age: Old enough to remember the headline, "Dewey Wins"

City/Town you live in: Fairhaven

Family: Married, 4 children, 7 grandchildren

Occupation: Retired Educator: 30 years as an administrator, teacher, and guidance counselor.

Special Interests/Hobbies: Golf, active member of the YMCA, enjoy sports, travel, active in town government.

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?
8 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? I learned of a volunteer moving out of state, creating an opening on the shift that I have covered ever since.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center?
Enjoying the visitors from various states and foreign countries

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life?
Other than family events, visiting Paris and Rome with my wife and friends, seeing places I originally saw as a 20 year old in the Navy.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I would like to have box seats along the first base line watching the Red Sox play in the World Series.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories?
Enjoyed the friendships that were formed throughout the city and neighboring towns while involved in high school team sports.



Name: Napoleon Demers

Age: (optional)

City/Town you live in: New Bedford

Family: Wife, Florence; Children, Marie, Susan, William

Occupation: Retired- Payroll Accounting

Special Interests/Hobbies: Gardening and Golfing

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?
12 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? To learn about our history and share it with others

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center?
Meeting people from all different walks of life

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life?
Witnessing championship fight between Rocky Marciano and Ezzard Charles.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? Golfing in Hawaii.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories?
Taking the Trolley from the North End of New Bedford to Acushnet Park in the South End.



New Volunteers Join the Team

Park staff and volunteers ushered in the summer season with a pot luck dinner and graduation ceremony for new volunteers. Over 60 volunteers, friends and family members enjoyed interesting conversation over local ethnic dishes, all of which were supplied by the volunteers. This annual event serves as an opportunity for staff and volunteers to socialize outside of official duties and, this year, provided a venue for introducing recent graduates of the park's volunteer training program. Ten people completed this year's 10 week training program. They are: Patricia Broadland, Shauneen Crane, Bernice Forcier, Theresa Gallagher, Cynthia Moniz, Frances Ryan, Shirley Smithies, Susan Struck, Barbara Wright, Mary Riddle. Welcome aboard!

Park Welcomes Michael Young Aboard



We are very pleased to welcome Michael Young of Dorchester, Massachusetts as the newest member of the park staff. Michael is a marketing major at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth and a graduate of Boston Latin School. He is a member of the UMASS varsity basketball team and has coached basketball fundamentals and served as a mentor to elementary school children. His experience with young people also includes serving as an instructor and coordinator for the University of Massachusetts Speech Academy, an after school program for middle

school students in New Bedford. The program teaches oral and written communication skills through power point instruction, communication basics, visual arts and historical research.

The Park is a partner in the Speech Academy, but the park's relationship with Michael began when he appeared as a whaler in the park's orientation movie, *The City That Lit the World*. Michael joined the crew of filmmakers from Northern Light Productions for location filming on the whaleship Charles W. Morgan at Mystic Seaport. He also worked for Northern Lights Productions portraying the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar as a young man in a film shown at the Dunbar House in Ohio. You can catch Mike as a New Bedford whaler on film every hour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Whaling Museum theater.

Michael is an asset to the park staff and possesses skills critical to the success of visitor services at the park. He has great

public speaking ability, a customer service background, and effective interpersonal skills. We are delighted to welcome him aboard.



Michael as a whaler in "The City That Lit the World"

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Park Staff Assists at City Visitor Center

Members of the park's visitor services staff have been asked to lend a hand at the city's waterfront visitor center in the Wharfinger Building on weekends during the busy summer season. In discussing the new collaboration, the city's Director of Marketing and Tourism, Arthur Motta, stated, "It makes sense. The visitor services team at the park already has the expertise and knowledge needed to meet the needs of our visitors. The partnership will help keep the waterfront visitor center open on the two busiest days of the week."

Chief of Visitor Services, Jennifer Gonsalves makes the point, "This is just one more way to make our partnership with the city more visible to the public. The staff welcomed the chance to work down on the waterfront and embraced the opportunity to learn more about that area of the park." The park will be partnering with the City of New Bedford on

an exhibit for the Wharfinger Building highlighting the fishing industry and the building's use as the site of New Bedford's commercial fish auction. The exhibit is scheduled to open in time for next summer's visitor season.



Above: The Waterfront Visitor Center



Park Ranger Alexandria Allen greets Dick and Linda Eigenraam who were visiting from Oak Harbor, WA.

Finishing Touches Complete VC Project



Richard Silvia carefully checks the profile of the damaged brownstone scroll he is reconstructing.

The finishing touches for the brownstone façade stabilization project have recently been completed. All of the decorative scroll work over the doors and windows of the main façade have been skillfully re-carved into place. The completion of the work on the brownstone was the final phase of the \$800,000 rehabilitation and preservation project to convert the 1854 Greek Revival Bank Building into the universally accessible visitor center for the park.

The decorative brownstone scrolls had suffered the ravages of time, and had not received any repair during the 149-year life of the building. The mason was able to create a template from existing undamaged profiles and was able to carve in new material where

the old had been lost. It is a time consuming and careful process that has produced fantastic results. Bay State Restoration of Warren Rhode Island completed the brownstone stabilization project.



“Nifty” Collaboration for Teen Arts Coalition

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, ArtWorks!, New Directions, and the Department of Mental Retardation have been collaborating for over four years, creating innovative and comprehensive arts programs to meet the needs of regional youth. The result of this collaboration is the Teen Arts Coalition, an after school and summer program for teenagers in the New Bedford area who are interested in finding ways to express themselves to the community.

The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is the newest partner in this exciting collaboration. NFTE’s mission is to teach entrepreneurship to low-income young people, ages 11 through 18, so they can become economically productive members of society by improving their academic, business, technology and life skills.

Students participating in the summer program will be developing a web site designed for teens to learn about the city of New Bedford while providing a forum for participants to display the artwork and poetry created during the summer program. They will also be working with NFTE instructors to write their own business plans.

The Teen Arts Coalition is in its fifth year using the park’s interpretive themes to serve as a broad basis as teens work with local artists, artists-in-residence, and park rangers to develop and produce public art and publications created for teens and by teens. Participants develop important skills such as critical thinking, traditional art instruction, graphic design, and writing while learning about New Bedford history and their national park. For more information on the Teen Arts Coalition contact Frank Barrows at (508) 996-4095 extension 13.



Teen Arts Coalition participants Josh Davis and Edwin Cardegena take notes while Steven Carter explains the logistics of owning your own business. Carter is the owner of Carter’s, a clothing store located in the national park.



Participants in the 2003 Teen Arts Coalition Summer program in the Visitor Center garden

Wayside Exhibit Project in Full Swing

Below is an example of a draft layout of one of the interpretive wayside panels designed for the park by the Harpers Ferry Center, the design and interpretive media center for the National Park Service. Over 40 waysides and orientation maps will be installed in and around the park this coming spring. The project is being funded through the Public Lands Highways Program and will also include an exhibit at the city's Waterfront Visitor Center. The panels and orientation maps will be installed by city forces in an another example of strong partnership efforts at the park.



Portraits of a Port Teacher Institute

School may have been out for the summer, but not for a group of ten teachers who spent a week of their summer vacation immersed in New Bedford history. Park staff worked with the New Bedford Whaling Museum in the presentation of Portraits of a Port, a one week institute designed to help teachers use local resources to study and teach the period between 1840 and 1890.

This year, the institute included a two-day sail aboard Schooner Ernestina to Martha's Vineyard, where participants attended a full day session on the history and contributions of the Wampanoag tribe in the whaling

industry. Other sessions included content presentations on the ecological history of New Bedford Harbor, the growth and industrialization of the port, and the role of people of color in New Bedford as well as tours of the black heritage trail and city neighborhoods.

This year's institute was funded by the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Act, a program established by Congress in 2001 to develop and foster educational initiatives between cultural partners.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

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Art, History, & Architecture

Downtown New Bedford's Arts & Culture Gallery Night

**the second Thursday of each month
5-9 PM**

All venues, programs, parking and
shuttle are FREE!

Thursday, August 14

"Kids Rule"

Thursday, September 11

"Secrets of the City"

Thursday, October 9

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